| 1        |                                                                                                      | The Honorable Richard A. Jones United States District Court Judge                                                                                                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2        |                                                                                                      | Officed States District Court Judge                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3        |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4        | UNITED STATES DIST                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5        | WESTERN DISTRICT OF<br>AT SEATT                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 6        | WASHINGTON ELECTION INTEGRITY                                                                        | )                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7        | COALITION UNITED, a Washington State<br>Nonprofit Corporation; DOUG BASLER;                          | ) No. 2:21-cv-01394-RAJ                                                                                                                                                              |
| 8        | HOWARD FERGUSON; DIANA BASS;<br>TIMOFEY SAMOYLENKO; AMY BEHOPE;                                      | )                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 9        | MARY HALLOWELL; SAMANTHA BUCARI;<br>RONALD STEWART; LYDIA ZIBIN;                                     | <ul><li>) KING COUNTY DEFENDANTS'</li><li>) ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS'</li></ul>                                                                                                          |
| 10       | CATHERINE DODSON,                                                                                    | ) COMPLAINT AND<br>) COUNTERCLAIM AND JURY                                                                                                                                           |
| 11       | Plaintiffs,<br>v.                                                                                    | ) DEMAND<br>)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12<br>13 | JULIE WISE, Directory of King County<br>Elections; KING COUNTY, and DOES<br>1-30, inclusive,         | )<br>)<br>)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 14       | Defendants.                                                                                          | )<br>)<br>)                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 15       | Julie Wise, Director of King County Elections                                                        | s, and King County (hereinafter "King                                                                                                                                                |
| 16       | County Defendants"), in answer to Plaintiffs' Compla                                                 | aint, admit, deny and state as follows:                                                                                                                                              |
| 17       | I. PAI                                                                                               | RTIES                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 18       | 1. In answering paragraph 1 of Plaintiff's                                                           | s Complaint, King County Defendants are                                                                                                                                              |
| 19       | without sufficient information to determine the truth                                                | or falsity of the allegations contained                                                                                                                                              |
| 20       | therein, and, therefore, deny the same.                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 21       | 2. In answering paragraph 2 of Plaintiff's                                                           | s Complaint, King County Defendants are                                                                                                                                              |
| 22       | without sufficient information to determine the truth                                                | or falsity of the allegations contained                                                                                                                                              |
| 23       | therein, and, therefore, deny the same.                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|          | ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT<br>AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY<br>DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 1 | Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney<br>CIVIL DIVISION, Litigation Section<br>1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700<br>Seattle, Washington 98101<br>(206) 296-0430 Fax (206) 296-8819 |

- 3. In answering paragraph 3 of Plaintiff's Complaint, King County Defendants admit only that Julie Wise is the elected Director of King County Elections and oversees election staff and workers, the accuracy of King County's vote tabulation and certification of King County's tabulation results. All other allegations therein are denied.
- 4. In answering paragraph 4 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants admit that King County is a home rule charter county and a political subdivision of the State of Washington.

#### II. OVERVIEW

5. In answering paragraph 5 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, admit only that Plaintiff
WEICU submitted a records request for ballots to King County Elections. All other allegations therein are denied.

#### III. JURISDICTION, VENUE, LIMITATIONS

- 6. In answering paragraph 6 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, Defendants leave the matter of jurisdiction to the Court.
- 7. In answering paragraph 7 of Plaintiff's complaint, King County Defendants leave the matter of venue to the Court. King County Defendants make no response to Plaintiffs' request that the Court disclose communications with unspecified third parties.
- 8. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 8 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.
- 9. In answering paragraph 9 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants make no response as it pertains to other unidentified defendants. To the extent a response is required, King County Defendants are without sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth or

| 1  | falsity of the allegations contained therein and, therefore, denies the same.                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 2  | IV. WRONGFUL ACTS: USE OF UNCERTIFIED VOTING SYSTEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| 3  | RCW 29A.68.013(1) and/or (2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 4  | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 5  | 10. In answering paragraph 10 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 6  | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 7  | 11. In answering paragraph 11 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 8  | deny.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 9  | 12. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 12 as it appears to                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 10 | contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 11 | allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 12 | 13. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 13 as it appears to                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 13 | contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 14 | allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |
| 15 | 14. Answering paragraph 14 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants deny.                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 16 | 15. Answering paragraph 15 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants deny.                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 17 | DECLARATORY RELIEF: USE OF UNCERTIFIED VOTING SYSTEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| 18 | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 19 | 16. In answering paragraph 16 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 20 | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 21 | 17. In answering paragraph 17 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| 22 | deny.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |
| 23 | 18. In answering paragraph 18 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|    | ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT  AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY  DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 3  Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney CIVIL DIVISION, Litigation Section 1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700 Seattle, Washington 98101 (206) 296-0430 Fax (206) 296-8819 |  |

1 deny. 2 26. In answering paragraph 26 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants 3 deny. 4 VII. DECLARATORY RELIEF: VOTE FLIPPING, ADDITIONS AND/OR 5 **DELETIONS** 6 (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director) 7 27. In answering paragraph 27 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants 8 incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs. 9 28. In answering paragraph 28 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants 10 deny. 11 29. In answering paragraph 29 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants 12 deny. 13 VIII. EQUITABLE RELIEF: VOTE FLIPPING, ADDITIONS AND/OR 14 **DELETIONS** 15 (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director) 16 30. In answering paragraph 30 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants 17 incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs. 18 31. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 31 as it appears to 19 contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent factual 20 allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.. 21 32. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 32 as it appears to 22 contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent factual 23 allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied. ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION, Litigation Section DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 5 1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700 Seattle, Washington 98101

(206) 296-0430 Fax (206) 296-8819

| 1  | IX. WRONGFUL ACTS: PARTY PREFERENCE                                                                                                                |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                   |
| 3  | 33. In answering paragraph 33 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                     |
| 4  | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                     |
| 5  | 34. In answering paragraph 34 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                     |
| 6  | deny.                                                                                                                                              |
| 7  | X. DECLARATORY RELIEF: PARTY PREFERENCE                                                                                                            |
| 8  | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                   |
| 9  | 35. In answering paragraph 35 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                     |
| 10 | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                     |
| 11 | 36. In answering paragraph 36 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                     |
| 12 | deny.                                                                                                                                              |
| 13 | 37. In answering paragraph 37 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                     |
| 14 | deny.                                                                                                                                              |
| 15 | XI. EQUITABLE RELIEF: PARTY PREFERENCE                                                                                                             |
| 16 | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                   |
| 17 | 38. In answering paragraph 38 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                     |
| 18 | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                     |
| 19 | 39. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 39 as it appears to                                                                       |
| 20 | contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent factual                                                        |
| 21 | allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.                                                                                      |
| 22 |                                                                                                                                                    |
| 23 |                                                                                                                                                    |
|    | ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT  AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY  Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attacher of the Civil Division Section Section |

| 1  | 40. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 40 as it appears to                                                                                                                                   |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 2  | contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent factual                                                                                                                    |  |
| 3  | allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.                                                                                                                                                  |  |
| 4  | XIII. WRONGFUL ACTS: BALLOT SECURITY                                                                                                                                                                           |  |
| 5  | RCW 29A.68.013(1) and/or (2)                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |
| 6  | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 7  | 41. In answering paragraph 41 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 8  | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 9  | 42. In answering paragraph 42 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 10 | deny.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 11 | XIV. DECLARATORY RELIEF: BALLOT SECURITY                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| 12 | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 13 | 43. In answering paragraph 43 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 14 | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 15 | 44. Answering paragraph 44 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants deny                                                                                                                               |  |
| 16 | 45. Answering paragraph 45 of Plaintiff's Complaint, King County Defendants deny                                                                                                                               |  |
| 17 | XV. EQUITABLE RELIEF: BALLOT SECURITY                                                                                                                                                                          |  |
| 18 | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 19 | 46. In answering paragraph 46 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 20 | incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                                                                                 |  |
| 21 | 47. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 47 as it appears to                                                                                                                                   |  |
| 22 | contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent factual                                                                                                                    |  |
| 23 | allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.                                                                                                                                                  |  |
|    | ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT  AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY  DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 7  Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney CIVIL DIVISION, Litigation Section 1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700 |  |

1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700 Seattle, Washington 98101 (206) 296-0430 Fax (206) 296-8819

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48. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 48 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.

#### XVI. PUBLIC RECORDS ACTION

# RCW 29A.68.013(1) and/or (2); RCW 42.56.030; RCW 42.56.550; RCW 29A.60.110 (Plaintiff WEICU v. Director and County)

- 49. In answering paragraph 49 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.
- 50. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 50 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.
- 51. In answering paragraph 51 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants admit.
- 52. In answering paragraph 52 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants admit only that Article VI, § 6 of the Washington Constitution provides, "All elections shall be by ballot. The legislature shall provide for such method of voting as will secure to every elector absolute secrecy in preparing and depositing his ballot." King County makes no response to the remainder of paragraph 52 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.
- 53. In answering paragraph 53 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants admit only that Article I, § 19 of the Washington Constitution provides, "All Elections shall be free and equal, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free

| exercise of the right of suffrage." King County makes no response to the remainder of paragraph  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 53 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the |
| extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.                |

- 54. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 54 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.
- 55. King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 55 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations are therein denied.
- 56. In answering paragraph 56 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants deny.

# XVII. DECLATORY RELIEF: VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS WA STATE CONSTITUTION ART. I, § 1, § 2, § 3, § 12, § 19, § 29; ART. VI, § 6, US CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS I, XIV

#### (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)

- 57. In answering paragraph 57 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants only that incorporate all responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.
- 58. In answering paragraph 58 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants admit only that the Washington Constitution guarantees free elections. King County Defendant's make no response to the remainder of paragraph 58 as it appears to contain legal conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual allegations are intended, all allegations therein are denied.

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| 1  |                 | f. In answering paragraph 61(f) of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County                                                           |
|----|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Defendants de   | eny.                                                                                                                            |
| 3  | 62.             | In answering paragraph 62 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                      |
| 4  | admit.          |                                                                                                                                 |
| 5  | 63.             | In answering paragraph 63 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                      |
| 6  | deny.           |                                                                                                                                 |
| 7  | XVIII. IN       | JUNCTIVE RELIEF: VIOLATIONS OF CONSTITUITIONAL RIGHTS                                                                           |
| 8  |                 | (Citizen Plaintiffs v. Director)                                                                                                |
| 9  | 64.             | In answering paragraph 64 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                      |
| 10 | incorporate al  | l responses and denials as set forth in the previous paragraphs.                                                                |
| 11 | 65.             | King County Defendants make no response to paragraph 65 as it appears to                                                        |
| 12 | contain legal   | conclusions for which no response is required. However, to the extent that factual                                              |
| 13 | allegations are | e intended, all allegations therein are denied.                                                                                 |
| 14 | 66.             | In answering paragraph 66 of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County Defendants                                                      |
| 15 | deny.           |                                                                                                                                 |
| 16 |                 | a. In answering paragraph 66(a) of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County                                                           |
| 17 | Defendants de   | eny.                                                                                                                            |
| 18 |                 | b. In answering paragraph 66(b) of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County                                                           |
| 19 | Defendants de   | eny.                                                                                                                            |
| 20 |                 | c. In answering paragraph 66(c) of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County                                                           |
| 21 | Defendants de   | eny.                                                                                                                            |
| 22 |                 | d. In answering paragraph 66(d) of Plaintiffs' Complaint, King County                                                           |
| 23 | Defendants de   | eny.                                                                                                                            |
|    |                 | D PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT  FERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY  Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney CIVIL DIVISION, Litigation Section |

DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 11

**DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 12** 

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### COUNTERCLAIM BY JULIE WISE AND KING COUNTY

### Request for Declaratory Relief Under RCW 42.56.070 (Public Records Act)

King County Elections Director Julie Wise and King County assert the following counterclaim:

#### I. PARTIES

- Julie Wise is the elected Director of King County Elections and an individual who
  resides in the Western District of Washington.
- King County is a home rule charter county located in the Western District of Washington and a political subdivision of the State of Washington.
- 3. Plaintiffs have alleged that they are individuals who reside in the Western District of Washington.

#### II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has discretion to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over this state law claim.
- 5. Venue is proper in the Western District of Washington.

#### III. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 6. Article VI, § 6 of the Washington Constitution provides, "All elections shall be by ballot. The legislature shall provide for such method of voting as will secure to every elector absolute secrecy in preparing and depositing his ballot." This broad mandate requires broad protection of ballots and the ballot process in Washington.
- 7. The Civil Rights Act of 1960, codified as 52 U.S.C. §§ 20701-20706, requires local election officials to retain and preserve all records relating to any act requisite to voting for 22 months after the conduct of any general election at

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which citizens vote for President or a member of Congress. The purpose of the Civil Rights Act retention requirements was to secure a more effective protection of the right to vote by ensuring that records are available to allow the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute civil or criminal election matters under federal law. The records must be retained physically or under local officials' direct administrative supervision.

8. Under their constitutional authority to protect the secrecy of the ballot, the Washington Legislature has adopted a comprehensive scheme governing elections which balances election security and secrecy of the ballot with transparency. Washington law provides specific ways in which the election process is subject to public oversight, including but not limited to requiring auditors to: maintain records of voters issued a ballot and who returned a ballot available for public inspection (RCW 29A.40.130); maintain cumulative precinct returns as public records (RCW 29A.60.070); and make counting centers open to the public (RCW 29A.60.170(2)). The legislative scheme allows a group of five or more registered voters to request a recount within a specified time period (RCW 29A.64.011), requires recount proceedings to be public (RCW 29A.64.030), requires an audit of results prior to certification (RCW 29A.60.185), and requires a reconciliation report that is publicly available (RCW 29A.60.235). However, this comprehensive scheme protects ballots by prohibiting any member of the public from touching a ballot during the counting process or recount (RCW) 29A.60.170(2), 29A.64.041) and requiring ballots to be sealed in containers immediately after tabulation (RCW 29A.60.110), and prohibiting the unsealing of

- the ballot containers except by the canvassing board, to conduct a recount, random check or audit as authorized by statutes or by order of the superior court in a contest or election dispute (RCW 29A.60.110).
- 9. Pursuant to RCW 42.56.070(1), Washington's Public Records Act requires government agencies to make public records available unless exempted by that Act or "other statute which exempts or prohibits disclosure of specific information or records."
- 10. Washington courts have repeatedly held that ballots and ballot images are exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records due to the provisions of Article VI, § 6 of the Washington Constitution, the comprehensive scheme set forth in Title 29A RCW and regulations adopted by the secretary of state under express legislative authority. White v. Clark County, 188 Wash. App. 622, 627, 354 P.3d 38, 40 (2015), review denied, 185 Wn.2d 1009 (2016); White v. Skagit County, 188 Wash. App. 886, 355 P.3d 1178 (2015), review denied, 185 Wn.2d 1009 (2016); White v. Clark County, 199 Wash. App. 929, 934, 401 P.3d 375, 378 (2017), review denied, 189 Wn.2d 1031 (2018).
- 11. Under Washington's current mail voting, pursuant to RCW 29A.40.091, all ballots must be accompanied by a declaration that the voter must sign. The voter must swear under penalty of perjury that he or she meet the qualifications to vote and has not voted in any other jurisdiction at this election. The voter must sign the "ballot declaration" and may provide contact information such as an email address or phone number. Pursuant to RCW 29A.40.100(3), upon receipt of ballot materials the county auditor must verify based on statewide standards that

- the signature on the "ballot declaration" is the same as the signature of that voter in the registration files. Ballots are not processed unless the signature is verified.
- 12. Pursuant to RCW 29A.08.710, the voter registration form is considered confidential and unavailable of public inspection and copying. Voter's names, address, political jurisdiction, gender, date of birth, voting record, date of registration, are available for public inspection and copying. RCW 29A.08.710 provides that no other information from the voter registration records or files, including signatures, is available for public inspection or copying.
- 13. Title 29A RCW serves as a comprehensive scheme restricting access to ballots, ballot images and voter signatures.
- 14. Pursuant to RCW 42.56.420(7), certain information relating to election security is exempt from public disclosure including records containing information about election security the public disclosure of which may increase risk to integrity of election operations.
- 15. On August 30, 2021, King County Elections received a public records request from Washington Election Integrity Coalition United, a nonprofit corporation, for disclosure of "original ballots, ballot images, spoiled ballots, adjudication records, ballot envelopes and returned ballots for the November 3, 2020 General Election."
- 16. King County Elections believes and so informed the Washington Election Integrity Coalition United that original ballots, ballot images, spoiled ballots and voter signatures contained in ballot declarations are exempt from public inspection or copying.

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17. King County Elections is faced with a choice between disclosing information in violation of the Washington Constitution that will threaten the integrity and security of future elections, and risking substantial monetary penalties.

#### IV. COUNTERCLAIM – DECLARATORY RELIEF

- 18. King County Defendants re-allege paragraphs 1 through 14.
- 19. An actual and justiciable case and controversy exists between the Plaintiffs and Director Wise and King County regarding the request for public disclosure of ballots, ballot images and ballot envelopes containing voter signatures. Director Wise and King County will suffer a concrete and imminent injury that is causally connected to Plaintiffs' action. This injury can be redressed with a favorable decision. The parties' rights and interests are direct and substantial, and the determination of the parties' rights and interests will resolve the dispute. The issues that exist between the parties are genuinely adversarial in character.
- 20. Director Wise and King County are entitled to a declaratory judgment in their favor that provides that ballots, ballot images and ballot envelopes containing voter signatures are exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Act because nondisclosure is required by Washington's constitution and its comprehensive election scheme to protect the secrecy of the ballot and to ensure election security and the integrity of election operations.

#### V. **RELIEF SOUGHT**

Having stated their claim against Plaintiffs, Director Julie Wise and King County pray for the following relief:

1. For an order by the Court declaring that, as a matter of law, Director Wise and

| 1  | King County cannot release ballots, ballot images or ballot envelopes                              |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 2  | containing voter signatures for public inspection or copying;                                      |  |
| 3  | 2. For an award of Director Julie Wise's and King County's attorneys' fees and                     |  |
| 4  | costs as provided under the law;                                                                   |  |
| 5  | 3. For prejudgment and post-judgment interest on all amounts awarded; and                          |  |
| 6  | 4. For any and all such further relief as the County may deem equitable and just.                  |  |
| 7  | WHEREFORE, King County Defendants pray that Plaintiffs take nothing by their                       |  |
| 8  | Complaint, that the Complaint be dismissed with prejudice, that King County Defendants be          |  |
| 9  | awarded declaratory relief and their costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred herein for such |  |
| 10 | other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable. King County Defendants also seek   |  |
| 11 | an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs in defending this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. |  |
| 12 | P. 11.                                                                                             |  |
| 13 | DATED this 20 <sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.                                                  |  |
| 14 | DANIEL T. SATTERBERG King County Prosecuting Attorney                                              |  |
| 15 | By: s/ Ann M. Summers                                                                              |  |
| 16 | ANN M. SUMMERS, WSBA #21509<br>DAVID J. HACKETT, WSBA #21236                                       |  |
| 17 | MARI ISAACSON, WSBA #42945<br>JANINE JOLY, WSBA #27314                                             |  |
| 18 | Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys Attorneys for Defendants                                       |  |
| 19 | 1191 Second Avenue, Suite 1700<br>Seattle, WA 98101                                                |  |
| 20 | Phone: (206) 296-0430/Fax: (206) 296-8819<br>ann.summers@kingcounty.gov                            |  |
| 21 | david.hackett@kingcounty.gov                                                                       |  |
| 22 |                                                                                                    |  |
| 23 |                                                                                                    |  |
|    | 1                                                                                                  |  |

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I hereby certify that on October 20, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing document 3 with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF E-filing system which will send notification of 4 such filing to the following: 5 Virginia Person Shogren VIRGINIA SHOGREN PC 6 961 W Oak Court Sequim, WA 98382 7 vshogren@gmail.com Attorney for Washington Election Integrity Coalition United 8 And I hereby certify that I sent a copy of the foregoing document via US Postal service to 9 the following: 10 Doug Basler 11 Plaintiff, Pro Se 1851 Central Place S. Suite 123 12 Kent, WA 98032 13 Howard Ferguson Plaintiff, Pro Se 4537 13th Avenue S 14 Seattle, WA 98108 15 Diana Bass 16 Plaintiff, Pro Se PO Box 7364 17 Bellevue, WA 98008 18 Timofey Samoylenko Plaintiff, Pro Se 19 1921 R. Street NE Auburn, WA 98002 20 Amy Behope 21 Plaintiff, Pro Se 507 SW 302<sup>nd</sup> Street Federal Way, WA 98023 22 23 Mary Hallowell Plaintiff, Pro Se ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY

DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 20

## Case 2:21-cv-01394-LK Document 9 Filed 10/20/21 Page 21 of 21

| 1   | 17505 462 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue SE                                                     |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2   | North Bend, WA 98045                                                                  |
|     | Samantha Bucari                                                                       |
| 3   | Plaintiff, Pro Se<br>3546 S. 244 <sup>th</sup> Street                                 |
| 4   | Kent, WA 98032                                                                        |
|     | sbucari2108@gmail.com                                                                 |
| 5   | Ronald Stewart                                                                        |
| 6   | Plaintiff, Pro Se                                                                     |
|     | 29506 51st Avenue South                                                               |
| 7   | Auburn, WA 98001                                                                      |
| 8   | Lydia Zibin                                                                           |
|     | Plaintiff, Pro Se                                                                     |
| 9   | 254 145 <sup>th</sup> Place SE                                                        |
| 1.0 | Bellevue, WA 98007                                                                    |
| 10  | Catherine Dodson                                                                      |
| 11  | Plaintiff, Pro Se                                                                     |
|     | 42131 212 <sup>th</sup> Avenue SE                                                     |
| 12  | Enumclaw, WA 98022                                                                    |
| 12  |                                                                                       |
| 13  | I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the |
| 14  | r declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the |
|     | foregoing is true and correct.                                                        |
| 15  |                                                                                       |
| 16  | DATED this 20 <sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.                                     |
|     |                                                                                       |
| 17  |                                                                                       |
| 18  | <u>s/Kris Bridgman</u><br>KRIS BRIDGMAN                                               |
| 10  | Paralegal – Litigation Section                                                        |
| 19  | King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office                                             |
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ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT AND COUNTERCLAIM OF KING COUNTY DEFENDANTS AND JURY DEMAND - 21